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The literacy area is backed by pink, setting aside visually from the white-backed math area. Both are bordered by black, tying them together.

## Wall Displays (PHOTO ESSAY)

The Sisters (Gail Boushey and Joan Moser)

When we were new teachers, we used to have a different background color for each bulletin board or wall display, as well as numerous borders. We would even change those borders each month to reflect seasons and holidays.



We try to border many items on our boards in black, creating a clean and visually organized space.

We now know that all those different borders and colors create "visual noise" for students, so we use one color and one border (plain black). These students

for students, so we use one color and one border (plain black). These simple common backgrounds and framing allow student work and learning on these boards to pop.

Our math area is separate from our literacy area. Not having enough bulletin board space for both, we adapted a white board to hold the math lessons and tools. The calendar ritual pieces are held together visually by surrounding them with a black border.



Long "sticky notes" make posting math games and activities a breeze - no tape necessary.

Magnets stick easily to white boards making them a flexible and versatile space. When materials don't lend themselves to magnets as a way to adhere to the white board we love to use the blue "tacky" found in the paint section of many hardware stores.



White board can be transformed into displays with some inexpensive borders and blue "tacky" adhesive.

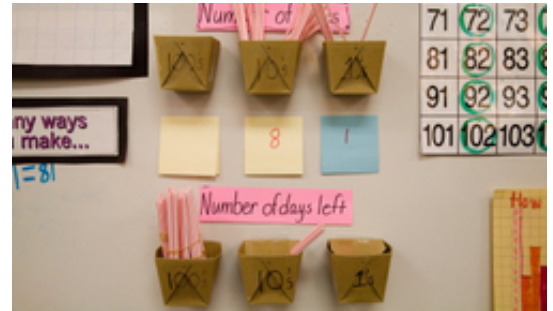


The Daily Graph is created each day by students. Kids move their magnets on the graph as part of their morning ritual.

As the years have passed, we've also tried to make our classrooms more ecologically friendly. Keeping the same background paper and borders



throughout the year is much less wasteful than continually changing backgrounds. The eye needs a place to rest when viewing items on the walls, which is another reason to keep backgrounds simple, and to leave space around any items within displays.



Making bulletin boards 3-D is easy with the use of these inexpensive "Chinese takeout" containers from a local craft store.

## Wall Displays Quick Tips

- Using one background color makes all learning and projects pop
- Rethink the amount of background paper that is used - keeping the same paper up all year is a "green" thing to do
- When looking at bulletin boards, look at the whole wall, taking into account above and below the board
- We use blue "tacky" to adhere charts and student work to walls void of a bulletin board
- We frame our bulletin boards as well as charts and artwork with black border. This keeps the focus on the contents of the boards, not the borders
- A white board can be used as a bulletin board with the help of a little tacky adhesive.



Trying to create the feel of "rooms" within a larger space of a classroom is a snap wit a screen. Here a bamboo screen separates the classroom "den" (library), giving the area a cozy feel while still allowing us to see through the "wall" to keep track of what children are doing.

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